

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you with a sense of dismay that your direction on recent policies and decisions regarding wild Pacific salmon will not restore self-sustaining and harvestable populations of this regional icon and national treasure. These developments also threaten the families, cultures, businesses, and communities of the Pacific states that depend on salmon for their livelihood.

In particular, we have serious concerns with three recent actions that jeopardize the survival and undermine chances of recovery for salmon from California to Alaska: 1) the final Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Biological Opinion, released by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 30; 2) NMFS' proposed critical habitat designations for endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California, also released on November 30 and; 3) the hatchery fish listing policy proposed by NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, due out in final form by June 2005.

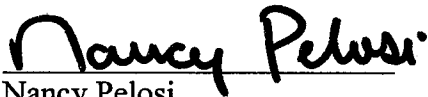
Collectively, these rule changes and proposals constitute an enormous step backwards in our nation's efforts and send a clear signal to our constituents that your administration is giving up on recovery and settling merely for the goal of survival of these stocks and probable loss of communities dependent on these fish. Allowing salmon populations to reach near extinction is both unacceptable and completely unnecessary. We point to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's (USCOP) Final Report, "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," as evidence that salmon populations are dangerously low and that habitat loss due to development and dam construction are some of the primary causes for this problem. Restoring this resource makes common sense; salmon mean business and jobs for all west coast communities.

Also, these recent attempts to weaken the statutory mandate to protect critical habitat and recover salmon will undermine the credibility and the accountability of NMFS' habitat protection efforts. As you know, protecting habitat is at the heart of NMFS' mission and is an integral part of its endeavors towards ecosystem-based management. Thus, these recent actions seem to be in contradiction to its mission, and forces us to ask the following question: How will marine ecosystems, the valuable fish

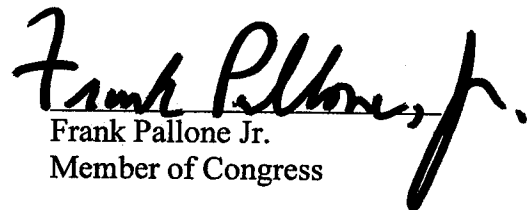
species that depend on those ecosystems and, in turn, the economic health of the recreational and commercial fishing industries, as well as Tribal fisheries, benefit from rules that are weak and provide for little protection and recovery for salmon?

Salmon recovery efforts must be guided by the best available science and sound economics. These are important guidelines for safeguarding the interests of our citizens and our nation's natural resources. However, your Administration's policy initiatives are fundamentally a wrong step in the protection and recovery of wild salmon. Therefore, we join with our colleagues in the Senate in urging you, as you begin your second term in office, to ensure that your administration's salmon plans and policies are scientifically credible, legally defensible and will lead to harvestable populations of salmon sufficient to support fishing-dependent coastal and rural economies and the tens of thousands of jobs a revitalized fishing industry can once again provide. A federal salmon policy that does not meet these vitally important criteria should and must be discarded to make room for one that does.

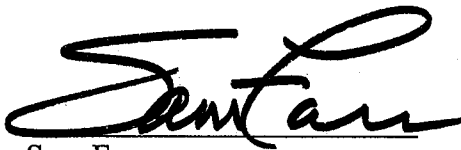
Sincerely,



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



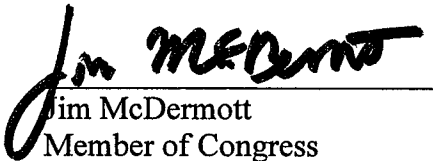
Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress



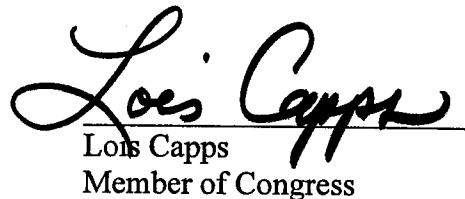
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



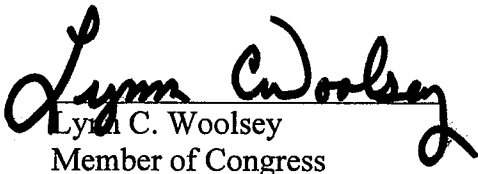
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



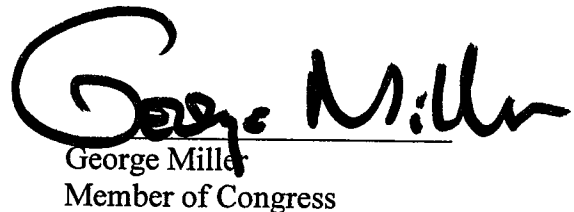
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



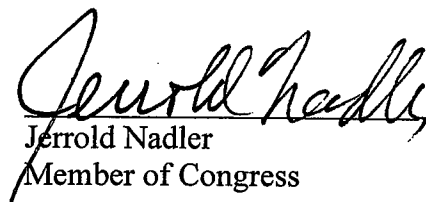
Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



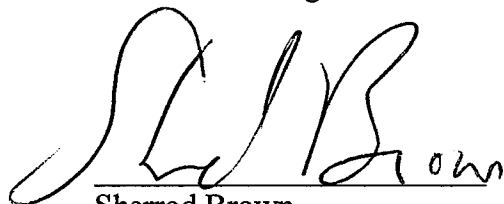
George Miller
Member of Congress



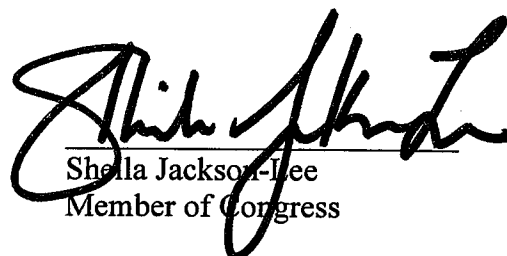
Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



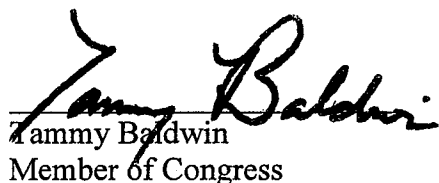
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



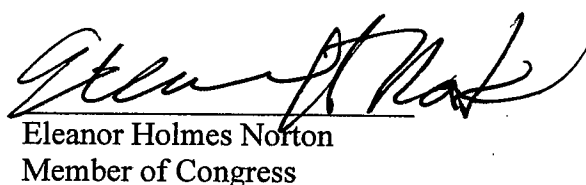
Sherrod Brown
Member of Congress



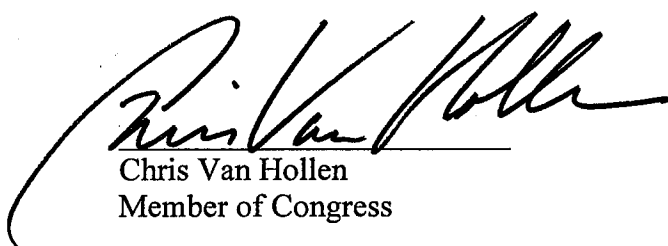
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



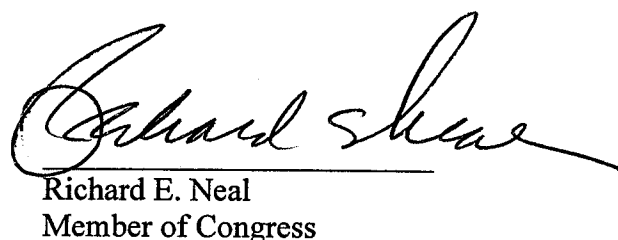
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress



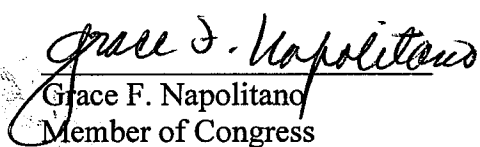
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



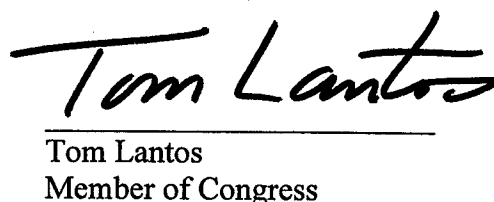
Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



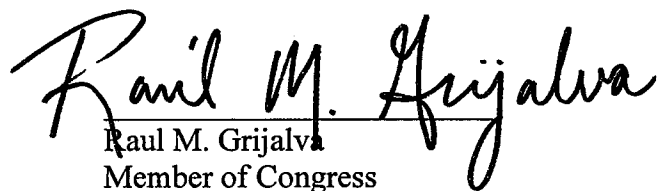
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



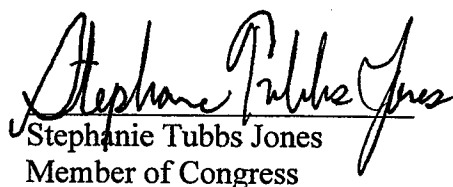
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Tom Lantos
Member of Congress



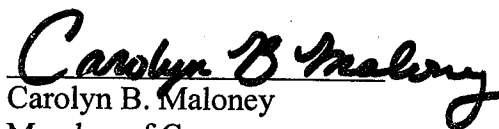
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Member of Congress



Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



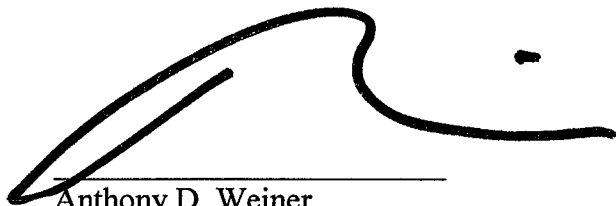
Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



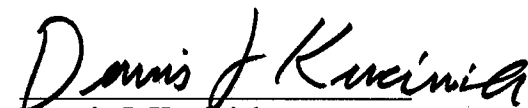
Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress



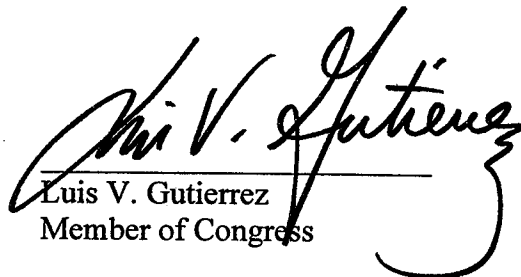
Anthony D. Weiner
Member of Congress



Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress



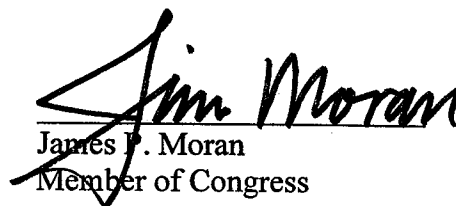
Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress




Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress




Major R. Owens
Member of Congress



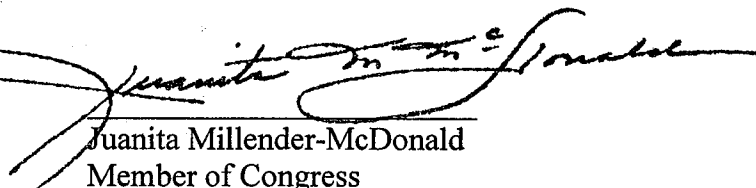
James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald
Member of Congress



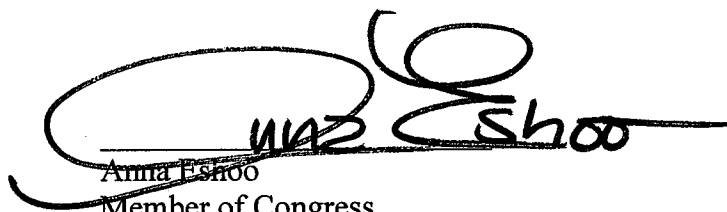
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Barney Frank
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



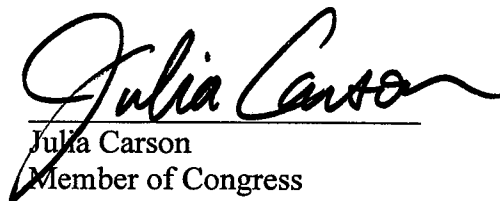
Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



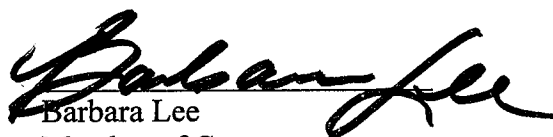
Pete Stark
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



Julia Carson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



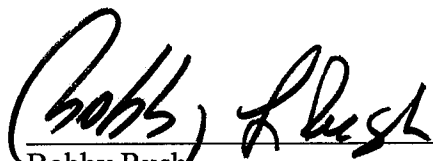
Bob Filner
Member of Congress



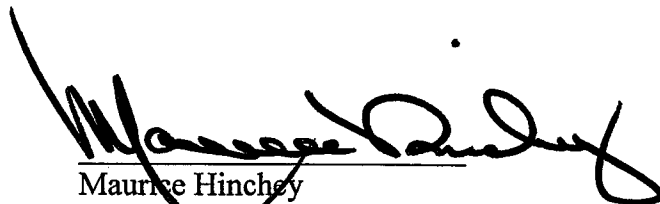
Ed Case
Member of Congress




Linda Sanchez
Member of Congress

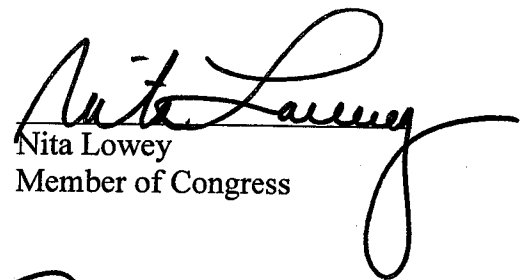


Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

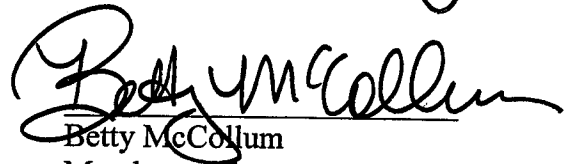


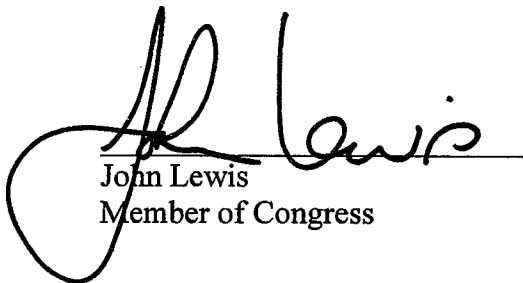
Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

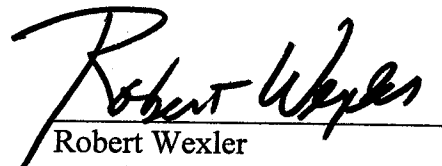

Jane Harman
Member of Congress



Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

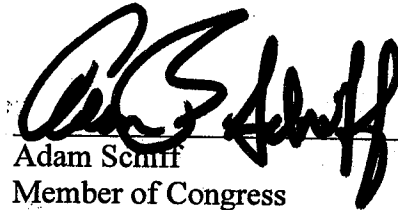

Robert Andrews
Member of Congress

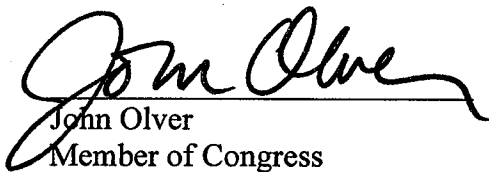

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

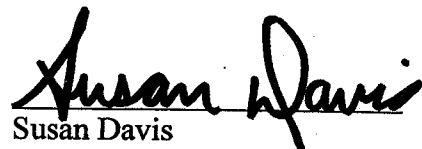

John Lewis
Member of Congress

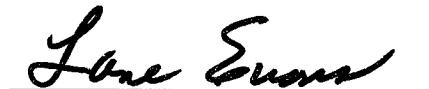

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

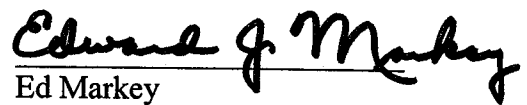

Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



John Olver
Member of Congress

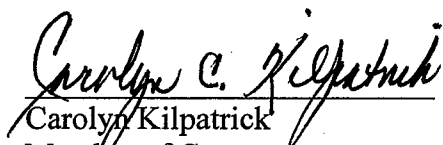

Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Lane Evans
Member of Congress

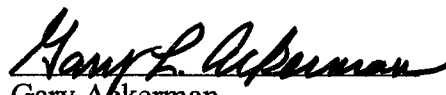

Ed Markey
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress

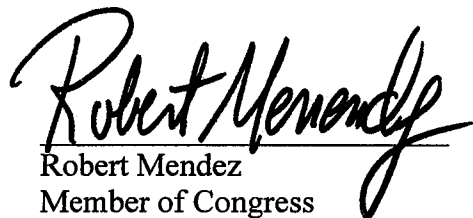

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

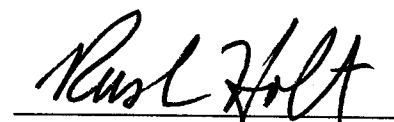

Gary Ackerman
Member of Congress

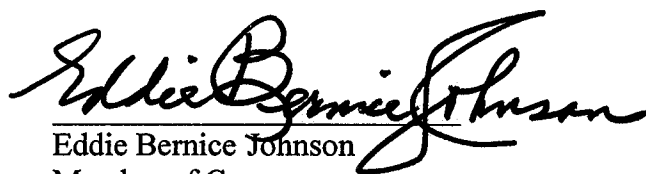

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

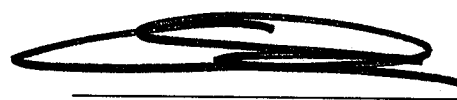

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress


Donald Payne
Member of Congress


Robert Mendez
Member of Congress


Rush Holt
Member of Congress


Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


David Wu
Member of Congress